

VERDUN BATTLE WON IN QUICK DASH

**Pounded for Three Days by
French Guns, Germans Had
No Spirit Left.**

100,000 MEN IN CHARGE

**Gen. Mangin Directed Actual
Assault Ordered by Gen.
Nivelle.**

PARIS, Dec. 16.—The French plan of attack in the Verdun offensive of yesterday was drawn up by Gen. Nivelle, now the Commander-in-Chief, with the concurrence of Gen. Pétain, who at the time was his superior officer. The assault proper was left to Gen. Mangin, it was made by five divisions, or close to 100,000 men, under command of such leaders as Gen. de Maunulay and Gen. du Plessis.

The front which the French infantry held since the recapture of Douaumont and Vaux ran thus: The southern slopes of Teppe Hill (Cote du Poivre), east of the Meuse, between Bras and Vacherauville; Hautmont wood, Hautmont quarry, the region north of the village, Fort Douaumont, the quarry northeast of Fort Douaumont, the small wood southeast of Fort Douaumont, Hardaumont wood, the village of Vaux and the fort of Vaux.

Guns Roar for 70 Hours.
Behind that line Gen. Nivelle had distributed groups of powerful batteries, which for seventy hours before the attack hammered the German positions, particularly those on Teppe Hill and at Hardaumont and Bezonsvaux.

From the positions occupied by the French it may be seen that they were installed on a series of heights, some dominating the German positions, but others under the direct fire of the enemy. To improve and strengthen their line it was necessary to wrest from their adversary the famous Teppe Hill, Douaumont, the crest of Hill 372, which commands Pommers wood, La Bauche and Hasseville wood, north of Douaumont. Fort, as well as the important works at Hardaumont, west of Douaumont, and north of Vaux, and if possible the village of Bezonsvaux, most of the houses of which are in the Wever. The church of this village is in the southern slopes of Hill 372, upon the other side of which lies the village of Ornes, one of the first towns carried by the Germans at the beginning of their victorious advance.

Five Divisions Advance.
Promptly at 10 A. M. the five attacking divisions, each of which covered a front of one and one-quarter miles, advanced behind the screen fire of guns of all calibers. They dashed into the German trenches. The German troops in these positions, surprised by the suddenness of the attack, offered comparatively little resistance.

In the village of Vacherauville, where the Germans had installed a large quantity of machine guns, the struggle was sharp and short. More to the east the French formations charged the slopes of Teppe Hill, carrying all before them. As they rushed to the attack the soldiers cheered and from time to time the machine-guns, roared by the almost throttled columns, could be heard above the chorus of the cannon.

With Vacherauville and Teppe Hill lost it became evident to the Germans that resistance would be futile and they retired in fairly good order. On the Vacherauville-Hautmont road, however, French troops suddenly appeared in the rear of the Germans. The French had crept along a small ravine running from Teppe Hill to this road.

German Troops Held.
On seeing the French the Germans halted, throwing up a line of machine-guns and machine-guns. From the top of the hill the French could see them running, and fighting with joy dashed after them.

In the extreme of the French reached close to the village of the same name. There they joined hands with the formations which had started from Hautmont, most wood and had progressed almost as rapidly along the eastern side of Teppe Hill and the Bras-Louvaumont road. Louvaumont was stormed out of hand and a large contingent of prisoners was rounded up. By this time the Germans were surrendering freely all along the line and the communication trenches were choked with prisoners going to the rear.

Advance in Rapid.
East of Louvaumont another division reached the Louvaumont-Amannas road. South of the angle formed by this road at the southeastern base of Pommers and a sharp thrust took place for possession of Hill 372, but here again the Germans stood down before the vigorous efforts of their assailants, abandoning the ground and leaving many dead and several hundred prisoners. The advance swept on over Hill 372 as far as Chambrettes farm, at the other edge of Pommers wood, and carried it.

Destroy Captured Guns.
Northeast of Douaumont the advance of the French troops was rapid. The woods of La Bauche and Hasseville and the Hardaumont position were carried successively. Hardaumont work, completely demolished by shell fire, could give no support to the German formations, which fell back upon it in disorder. All the woods north of the work were occupied by the French, who pushed on as far as the village of Bezonsvaux.

Everywhere the French had shown splendid spirit. Nothing could stop them. Nothing went wrong. The interference with the plans of the commanders. By 11 o'clock twenty guns had fallen into the hands of the French; by noon forty guns; by 5 o'clock seventy-five had been counted, exclusive of those destroyed.

Destroy Captured Guns.
Having accomplished the task set for him, General Mangin, prodding by the disorganization of the German ranks caused by the abrupt attack, sent out exploring parties everywhere with instructions to destroy as many guns as possible and come back to the newly occupied lines when their work was done. These scouting parties acted promptly and accomplished their task. They put out of action most of the guns north of Vacherauville and Louvaumont and in Bezons and Caurières woods.

The French front now follows a line running from the north of Vacherauville along the Vacherauville-Vill-devant-Douaumont road to the extremity of the Louvaumont crest, passing on the other side of Louvaumont along the fringe of Pommers wood, then before Chambrettes, and crossing Caurières wood, goes to the north of Bezonsvaux. South of this line and as far as Vaux the new line follows approximately the Bezonsvaux-Hautmont road.

The positions recaptured yesterday were lost on February 25.

MACKENSEN'S ARMY FORCING THE BUZEU

**2,000 More Rumanians Are
Captured as Tentons Push
On Through Wallachia.**

RUSSIANS FALL BACK

**Bulgars, Turks and Germans
in Close Pursuit of Czar's
Forces in Dobrudja.**

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The German and Austro-Hungarian armies are continuing their sweep through Wallachia. A statement by the War Office in Berlin to the effect that the Buzeu River sector has been forced to mean that the Teutons are crossing that stream, along the line of which it was expected the Rumanians would make a stand.

An official statement issued in Sofia announces that vanguards of the troops which had crossed the Danube near Silistria (161 miles southeast of Bucharest), Turtukal and Cernavoda, have crossed the Bucharest-Putest railway, which stretches almost due east from the Rumanian capital, and with extensions, reach the Black Sea.

A stubborn fight in progress near Oena, on the Sereth, in Moldavia. South of the Tsal Valley the Germans, according to the latest reports, have recaptured a height which had been taken by the Rumanians.

Russians Shell Balchik.
Russian ships have shelled Balchik, on the Black Sea, in Bulgaria, an important source of food supply for the Bulgarian army. Balchik is twenty-three miles northeast of Varna and is near the ruins of Tomi, the place of Ovid's exile.

A Bulgarian War Office report dated Thursday says:

The vanguards of the troops which crossed the Danube near Turtukal, Silistria and Cernavoda have crossed the Bucharest-Putest railway. Russian ships have shelled Balchik, on the Black Sea coast of Dobrudja. Four inhabitants were killed and five wounded.

Today's statement issued by Army Headquarters in Berlin was as follows:
Eastern front: West of Lutsk, after a successful mine explosion, Austro-Hungarian troops broke forth, damaged hostile trenches and returned, after further work of destruction, with booty and a number of prisoners.

Front of Archduke Joseph: South of the Tsal Valley, Russian attacks, twice repeated, were halted by our artillery fire.

Ninth Army Advances.
Army group of Field Marshal von Mackensen: The left wing of the Ninth army, in indefatigable engagement, has reached the road from Husen to Rimtsoul. The Buzeu River sector, east of Husen, has been forced by fighting. An additional 2,000 prisoners have been brought in.

In Dobrudja the Rumanians gave up most of their southern positions. Bulgarian, Turkish and German troops, in rapid pursuit, have crossed the line of Cogeale-Cartal-Hirova. The Austro-Hungarian statement of yesterday follows:

In the eastern war theatre, west and northwest of Oena, a stubborn combat continues.

North of Tsal Valley, in a counter attack, we captured a height which had been taken temporarily by the Rumanians.

North of the Osobanes Valley the adversary obtained a local advantage. In the wooded Carpathians the Russian attacks diminished.

Austro-Hungarian detachments gained a footing in the trenches of the Rumanian outpost on a 350 yard front near Konitsch, south of Zborov.

The Russian Report.
The Russian War Office issued this statement today:

On the Moldavian frontier the enemy's advance in the Otus Valley was repulsed.

With a view to the destruction of mills supplying the Bulgarian army with flour, our vessels successfully bombarded the port of Balchik Wednesday. We were bombarded by shore batteries and attacked by submarines and a submarine without result from the enemy.

In the region east of the village of Konitsch the struggle continued yesterday until 7 o'clock in the evening for the possession of trenches of one of our ambulances which was occupied by the Germans. The trench changed hands four times. The result was that the southern portion was left in the hands of the enemy.

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FRENCH HOLD GREAT GAIN AT VERDUN

Continued from First Page.

sued earlier in the day, reported that the four French divisions engaged in yesterday's attacks took as prisoners soldiers belonging to every regiment of the five German divisions.

Germans Fall to Counter.
The French statement was as follows: On the right bank of the River Meuse the enemy has undertaken no counter attacks. During the night, however, the bombardment was fairly spirited along the whole length of our new front.

It has been confirmed that four French divisions which yesterday conducted the attack between the River Meuse and the Wever district were victorious over at least five German divisions. All the regiments of these German divisions took part in the fighting and prisoners from each one of them are now in our hands.

In the region of Chavoncourt a surprise attack resulted in our bringing back prisoners.

Everywhere else on the front the night passed quietly.

BATTLE IS DESCRIBED.

Germans' Desperate Defence at Verdun Crumbled Under Attack.
From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—A short, sharp battle brought to the French today their third smashing victory within a period of two months in the vicinity of Verdun. Every objective point of the French commanders was obtained with chronometric accuracy.

Although the Germans offered a desperate defence, the attack was so powerful there was no withstanding it. With the result that the Germans were pushed back along the line by the French, who only ceased on orders when the objectives had been gained.

Thousands of German prisoners poured into the French lines during the day, including 200 officers, and large groups are still arriving. The total count already is 7,500. (The latest French official statement says the number of prisoners exceeds 9,000.) One division alone captured over 1,200 Germans within an hour. More than eighty large and small German cannon were captured or destroyed and many others are known to be buried.

Four Villages in French Hands.
The villages of Vacherauville, Louvaumont and Bezonsvaux and Hardaumont Wood are now in French hands. The front over which the offensive was executed was ten kilometers long. When the fighting ceased owing to the darkness the French advance had exceeded an average of three kilometers along the whole front, at various points rushing further out and threatening the German batteries, whose retreat was hindered by the bad condition of the ground.

The battle began at 10 o'clock in the morning with the left flank on Fort Vaux. The correspondent of the Associated Press watched the engagement from a dominating height. As the church clock struck the hour every French gun opened a storm of steel plunging ever so immediately behind the German front line. Meanwhile the French infantry made one of its characteristic dashes and reached the village of Vacherauville, where, utilizing the new method of infantry attack, they drove the Germans from house to house until the village was entirely in their hands.

Attack "Bethmann's Bowl."
Advancing beyond the village, the French attacked a German trench known as "Bethmann's Bowl," which was pierced after a hard fight and its occupants made prisoners. Then up the slopes of Teppe Hill the infantrymen could be seen making methodical progress, until at exactly an hour from the start the twin crests of this height had been swept clear of Germans, and the redoubt announced the French were established there.

Gen. Mangin was again the principal organizer of the victory, in which he followed his own example at Douaumont and Fort Vaux by following irresistible blows at the chief point in the German lines and hammering until his opponents were forced to give ground. Gen. Nivelle and Pétain watched the engagement, in which only four French divisions participated, although it is known the Germans had five divisions engaged, from every regiment of which prisoners were taken.

It is reported without confirmation that several of the German divisions which took part in the fighting were hurried from Rumania to join the "Crown Prince's" army and that they were among those suffering defeat.

The French losses during the attack were unbelievably slight. The German artillery seemed to fire at random, probably disorganized by the absence of German airmen, who were kept in complete subjection by the French aviators. The importance of the victory is considered by the French commanders enormous, as it compels the Germans to move back artillery which heretofore had annoyed the French supply depots and works on the other side of the Meuse and also lays open the flanks of their position in Le Mort Homme.

Thirty German deserters, who came in before the battle began, testify that the "Crown Prince's" army had knowledge that an attack was about to be made and were confident that they could hold the ground, which during their nine months of occupation they had strongly organized. They assert that more Germans were desirous of deserting, but that the strictest precautions which had been taken and the nature of the ground prevented them from doing so.

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Bombarded German trenches at Two Points in West.

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LONDON, Dec. 16.—The bombardment by British troops of German trenches

north of Hullych and east of Neuve Chapelle was announced at army headquarters in France today. The statement follows:

A small party of the enemy who last night approached our trenches north of Hill 60 in the Tynes salient in an endeavor to bomb them was caught by our artillery barrage and no attempt was made to enter our trenches.

There was some artillery activity during the night north of the Ancre and north of Ypres.

BERLIN ADMITS DEFEAT.
Success of French Attack at Verdun Is Explained.

BERLIN, Dec. 16.—A renewal of infantry fighting in the Verdun region is reported in today's official German statement. The success of the French troops in yesterday's drive is admitted without qualification.

The statement follows:
In the Somme sector there has been an artillery duel of violence at times.

On the east bank of the Meuse fighting was revived today after a calm night.

The French on December 15 succeeded in pushing us back from the most advanced positions into the second prepared line of Telou ridge, the heights north of Louvaumont, Chambrettes and south of Bezonsvaux.

Violent artillery fighting occurred in Belgium also yesterday, it is announced. According to the statement, German troops advanced to the second British line southeast of Zillebeke, forcing the defenders to flee.

U-BOAT SINKS GREEK SHIP.
Three Other Vessels Reported Lost. One by a Mine.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The sinking of a 6,000-ton Greek steamship Salamis by a German submarine is reported in a Havas dispatch received in Paris from Madrid. The crew embarked in sight of the ship's boats, which were towed by the submarine to a point near the coast.

Lloyd's shipping agency announces that the British ship Nalad and the Norwegian steamer Brank, of 805 tons net, have been sunk. The crews have been landed.

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COMMERCE CLUB AT DANCE.
Christmas Entertainment for 400
Bank Employees and Guests.

A Christmas entertainment under the auspices of the Commerce Club of the National Bank of Commerce was held last night on the third floor of the bank building.

About 400 employees and guests, including James S. Alexander, president of the bank, were present at the entertainment. Dancing and amateur stunts of various sorts by local talent made up the programme.

The employees danced with great enjoyment, chiefly because of the fact that last Thursday a bonus was announced of 10 per cent. on salaries of \$2,000 and under, and 12 per cent. on salaries between \$2,000 and \$4,000.

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On Christmas there will be many hundreds who will wish they had thought of music and wonder why they didn't. And there will be thousands more who will enjoy their finest Christmas because they discovered music and found a way to give a gift of broader, happier life.

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Few there are who know music intimately as they may know literature and many other fine arts. And few there are also who have not an innate love for music—a power to appreciate and enjoy it.

Music has been until now the inaccessible art. An art freely available only to those of musical talent and skilled in the technique of playing. But this is no longer true. Those who have kept closed and curtained that chamber of the mind where reside the musical sensibilities may now have music—all of music.

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The skilled dexterity—the keyboard magic—answering each turn of your will, enables you to weave rich harmonies of tone, to make such fine, sweet melodies sing forth as heretofore were possible only to the highly learned in music.

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